

Statement by:

**Pete Smith
Press Secretary
Governor's Office**

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For Immediate Release**

“Governor Barbour is encouraged that the House has joined the budget discussion with a general plan. The Governor is particularly pleased that so many of his ‘Operation: Streamline’ budget proposals were included in the House plan.

Governor Barbour looks forward to learning more details when they are offered outlining the tax and fee increases in the plan; the rationale used to increase the Legislative Budget Committee revenue estimate; and the additional one-time money used in the plan.

He looks forward to working with House and Senate leaders in helping Mississippi climb out of its \$700 million budget hole and, in particular, finding additional money for education.”